



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Commerce Director Anthony Preite to Present \$234,500 to Earl Fisher Bio Fuels**

(HELENA) – Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony Preite will present a \$234,500 in Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant to Earl Fisher Bio Fuels, LLP on **Friday, February 1, at 10:00 a.m. at the Liberty Manufacturing Building west of Chester.**

The \$234,500 in WIRED funds will be used to train seven new employees in the production of biodiesel using primarily locally grown oilseed crops.

“Montana’s on the move. Our economy is strong and we’re creating new, good paying jobs in communities across the state,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “These funds are helping Earl Fisher Bio Fuels and its employees expand in the innovative and dynamic field of bio-production.”

In January 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor approved Governor Schweitzer’s application for the WIRED initiative. Montana’s application was one of only 13 approved nationwide.

“Montana’s WIRED program was created as a result of Governor Schweitzer’s commitment to advancing our value added agricultural energy projects,” said Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony Preite. “Earl Fisher Bio Fuels is a leader in this movement.”

The Commerce WIRED program is focused on developing the bio-product industry across the 32 county WIRED region in eastern and central Montana and on six Indian reservations. Funds can be used for customized worker training for businesses working with universities, colleges, high schools, and other training providers on specialized bio-product training and curriculum development. The program will also provide grants for WIRED eligible job training programs or projects that will enhance and expand the bio-product industry in the WIRED region. The Montana Department of Commerce is managing a component of the WIRED grant program under contract with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

**WHO: Commerce Director Anthony Preite**

**WHAT: Present \$234,500 to Earl Fisher Bio Fuels, LLC**

**WHEN: Friday, February 1 @ 10:00 AM**

**WHERE: Liberty Manufacturing Building, west of Chester**

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